



# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 2, Issue 11  
December 1, 2001

## Calendar Of Events

- Dec 4-6 Decorating Dudley Diggs Home, 9 AM – 12 noon, Grace Episcopal Church – see article inside  
Dec 5 Office Resource Training, 9:00 AM – 12 noon, Extension Office, call to register  
Dec 7 Pruning Training for the Professional, 8 AM, Busch Gardens  
Dec 11 MG Programming Committee Meeting (9:30 AM) AND Holiday Luncheon, 10:30 AM, St Luke's  
Dec 17 Private Pesticide Recertification Registration—Hampton Office (727-1401)  
Dec 24-25 York County Extension Office Closed  
Dec 31– Jan 1 York County Extension Office Closed  
Jan 8 Master Gardener Programming Committee meeting (9:30—11:30) St. Luke's  
Jan 9 Office Resource Training, 9:00 AM – 12 noon, Extension Office, call to register  
Jan 12 Advanced Pruning Training, 9 AM – 3 PM, CNU – Science Bldg, Rm 111 – see article inside  
Jan 15 Practice Pruning Training (Pruning Team Members ONLY)  
Jan 17 Practice Pruning Training (Pruning Team Members ONLY)  
Jan 18-20 Virginia Flower and Garden Show, [www.viriniagardens.org](http://www.viriniagardens.org)  
Jan 21-24 Professional Horticulture Conference of VA, Virginia Beach, [www.phcv.org](http://www.phcv.org)  
Jan 26 Homeowners Fruit Pruning Day, 10 AM – 12 noon, 400 Glebe Springs Road  
Jan 30 Practice Pruning Training (Pruning Team Members ONLY)  
Feb 1-2 VA Biological Farming Conference & Trade Show, Front Royal, <http://www.vabf.f2s.com>  
Feb 6 Office Resource Training, 9:00 AM – 12 noon, Extension Office, call to register



Thursdays **Work/Learn Day** in the Learning Garden 9:30-11:30 AM

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Natalie Hutchinson at 867-6761 e-mail: [nhutchin@odu.edu](mailto:nhutchin@odu.edu).

The Deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E Mail Changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word onto Evelyn and Natalie. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

**Master Gardener Mission Statement:** *Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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# Notes from Jim

## Professional Horticultural Conference of Virginia

Two great educational opportunities occur in January that you might want to put onto your calendar.

- The Virginia Flower and Garden Show, Jan 18, 19, 20, Cost \$7.00 ([www.viriniagardens.org](http://www.viriniagardens.org))
- The Professional Horticultural Conference of Virginia, Jan 21, 22, 23, 34, Cost \$75.00 ([www.phcv.org](http://www.phcv.org))

These educational programs will expose you to a broad array of classes, professional contacts, and give you a feel for the direction of horticulture in the Tidewater Area. Both events are held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. I trust that you will consider attendance at these. For more information and a schedule of classes go to [www.phcv.org](http://www.phcv.org). I encourage attendance at these trainings and this goes towards your continuing training if you are a master gardener. To further encourage attendance, I will pay \$40.00 of your registration fee and provide a van for 12 passengers to carpool to the event. These funds are made available through the local budget provided to us by the York County Board of Supervisors. The board values the continuing education of our volunteers. The other option that you have for full payment of your registration fee is to sign up to be a moderator during the week. Contact Lynette Swanson Extension Agent in Chesapeake at [lswanson@vt.edu](mailto:lswanson@vt.edu) (382-6348) to indicate your interest or find out more. In order to receive the \$40.00 scholarship to attend you must:

1. Attend a minimum of two full days of the conference.
  2. Meet the deadline to turn your registration form into the office by December 20. Include the balance at the time you submit your application. Get the application on line at [www.phcv.org](http://www.phcv.org)
  3. Write a brief review for submission to the Green Thumb. [bennettteresah@aol.com](mailto:bennettteresah@aol.com)
  4. Send a Thank You note to your Board member indicating the value of this conference for your education.
- Please consider either of these trainings. I hope that this might fit into your calendar.

## Program Flowchart

I have met with all but two of the 2001 graduates and I have inserted the trainees into coordinators roles. Jody is sorting the Active Master Gardener responses and will construct a roster. The 2002 Extension Horticultural Flow Chart will be out by January 2. We will mail this by itself. Thank you all for agreeing to perform the jobs in this program. It is an ambitious program and it runs well because of your cooperative and dedicated volunteer efforts. I look forward to working with all of you to serve the citizens of York County.

## Holiday Closings

The York County Extension Office will be closed during the following dates:

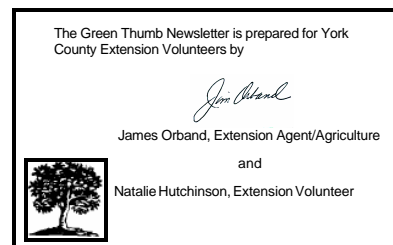
Monday, December 24; Tuesday, December 25; Monday, December 31; Tuesday, January 1.

Jim will not be in the office December 26, 27, 28. There will be a minimal amount of horticultural questions during this time and I am not requesting volunteers to cover the phones. We all need to enjoy our families and take a good break. The office will be minimally staffed.

## Congratulations to the Graduates

The York County Cooperative Extension program welcomes eighteen 2001 Master Gardeners trainees. It was a very good class. Thank you to Lyn Chaffin and her multi-unit training planning team for the dedication in putting this program together. The graduates are: Teresa Bennett, Sheila Cox, Claudette Davis, Brenda Dearborn, Barbara Dunbar, Janis Erickson, Rene' Kauder, Shirly Kimmel, Pamela King, Angeline Large, Marilyn Moren, Ricki Noble, Bonnie Ologge, Marie Pannone, Lanna Rackley, Larry Riddick, Margie Tully, Martha Wilkins. I look forward to working with all of the interns and their integration into the York County Master Gardeners.

Has your E-mail Address Changed? When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify Jody Painter ([jopainte@vt.edu](mailto:jopainte@vt.edu)) and Evelyn Parker([parkerew@aol.com](mailto:parkerew@aol.com)). We are trying to get gardening information to all YCMGs in a timely manner; your help with this will be appreciated.



### Janet's Notes

As we enter into the month of December it is hard to believe it was 12 months ago that I accepted this job as unit coordinator. The year has gone by very quickly and in many ways I will miss having this position. Thank you all, you made it such an easy task. Working with York County Master Gardeners is always a positive experience; we are a great group of folks! I want to wish Terry Hanson the very best in her turn as unit coordinator.

We have our last programming meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. It is also our Holiday Celebration. We have the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Bonnie Appleton to speak about her new book, *MidAtlantic Book of Lists*, and talk about ROOTS. There will be a short meeting starting at 9:30, followed by a short break, and Bonnie will be speaking at 10:30. Dr. Bonnie Appleton is a well know Professor of horticulture from VA. Tech, and is based at the Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Extension Center. She is an Extension specialist in Nursery production. She and her students do extensive research on trees and especially the roots of trees. She will have her new book for sale (\$18) and the profit (\$6) will go to the Food Closet at St. Luke's. Please remember to bring something tasty to share, a can of nonperishable food for the Food Closet, and your checkbook. This is for all our Master Gardeners, so please mark Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and come share in the festivities. I look forward to seeing YOU there!

Janet Ledebuhr, [charlieandjanet@earthlink.net](mailto:charlieandjanet@earthlink.net)

### Using the Resources in the Extension Office

Three open slots exist for the training on Using the Resources in the Extension Office for January 9 at 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon in Jim's Office. The December training is booked. The February training is scheduled for February 6 same time, same place. Call 890-4940 to schedule yourself for this most informative session. It will give you a hands on training of the many resources in the Extension Office.

### Preparation of the Dudley Diggs Home

The York County Master Gardeners will decorate the exterior of the Dudley Diggs home (historic home in the Town of York) in preparation for "Yorktown Celebrates" on December 8. Liz Tragle will demonstrate, teach, and help Master Gardeners to make decorations from live plant materials. We will use a lot of Colonial Design in preparing these decorations. Please come help prepare the decorations on days that you can make it which include: December 4, 5, 6. We meet at Grace Episcopal Church from 9 am until 12 noon. If you have questions please call Liz at 898-8182. The following items are needed for decorations: mixed greens such as ivy, magnolia leaves, holly, etc., unusual pods that would add dimension to a wreath such as okra pods, peppers, cotton, pinecones, etc. Please contact Liz if you have any of these items.

### Crape Myrtle Pruning for the Professional

On December 7, at 8:00 a.m. the York County Extension Office will sponsor a hands on pruning training for the professional on How to Properly Prune Crape Myrtle. The training will be at Busch Gardens and is limited to 35 attendees. Many tree stewards are working with the professional on their practices and this would be a great training to encourage those individuals to attend. Many members of the pruning team will be involved in the teaching of the program.

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We're on the Web!  
[www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)

### **It's Not Too Early to Plan**

February will be here before you know it and we have scheduled many On-Site Pruning Clinics for the public to attend. In preparing Master Gardeners to teach those clinics, I have set Saturday, Jan 12, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. for an Advanced Pruning Training. It will be held at Christopher Newport University in the Science Building in Room 111. Marilyn Moren is the 2002 Pruning Team Coordinator. Members of the team will be sent a notice. If you would like to join the team contact Marilyn at 259-0095. Two requirements of being on the team are: that you attend the Advanced Training, and you participate in one of the scheduled February On-Site Pruning Clinics. Jan 15, 17, and 30 are scheduled pruning practices. The Homeowners Fruit Pruning Day is Jan 26 from 10 until 12 noon at 400 Glebe Springs Road. More information will follow.

### **Learning Garden**

We had a wonderful turn out in the garden on Oct. 25, for our first fall luncheon to thank the people who have given us the extra help in the garden this past year: those who have donated plants or mulch, pay our water bill, make up the ads about the up-coming Plant Sales, and so much more. Although it was a little windy, the tables were set and decorated, under the guidance of Betsy Lambert who stepped up to the plate when we needed some help with the food part, and all had a great time. We want to thank all those who came with food and well wishes. Also on Saturday, Nov 10, seven bird houses were put up in the Learning Garden because of an Eagle project that was done by Steve Paris of Troop 200. We also got part of the garden mulched. I want to thank those people who came out to guide the scouts through this project. They were Agnes Evans, Carol Brower, Felice Bond and Jim who delivered 54 yards of mulch to the area. Now that we have this, and the weather is so beautiful come join us each Thursday, except Thanksgiving to spread mulch and take in the new birdhouses. Diane Short

### **Communicating with Master Gardeners**

There are many ways that we get information to all of the York County Master Gardeners. E-mails are a great way to distribute vital information in a timely fashion. The phone tree gets the information to those that do not have e-mail. Please consider these points in using e-mails with York County Master Gardeners.

1) Please indicate a subject in the subject line. Many individuals delete messages because of the many viruses that users are weary of. A simple, "Master Gardener Information" would be adequate.

2) Please do not forward jokes, sayings, sediments, and other pass along items to Master Gardeners unless you know that they would like that information. Our program involves a lot of people and some concern has been expressed as to the increase of this type of e-mail traffic.

3) Please guard the privacy of your fellow Master Gardeners. Please do not release e-mails, phone numbers, or addresses of Master Gardeners. I know that you mean well, but have the Master Gardener call the person if a question needs to be answered.

### **York County Beautification Committee**

The York County Extension program has one Master Gardener that is assigned to the York County Beautification Committee to represent us as well as serve as a technical resource. There are many master gardeners presently on the committee. I am making you aware of this because you or someone that you know might be interested in serving in a community volunteer role because of your interest in this subject. Contact the chairman Richard Wallsom at 253-0786 or Norma Jackson at 865-0486 for information on the committee.

### **Do You Like to Have Answers to Your Questions?**

We have the place for you. The new Home Gardener Program plans to have eight Master Gardeners available during each of its classes in Feb/Mar 2002 to answer individual questions each week. That means two are needed each week from York County. Most questions will be written, giving you time to research during the class period. Bring your favorite reference book. Could you please help us? Classes will be on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Feb 16 - Mar 23, excluding March 3. Give Jackie Lohr, 898-5741, your name and we'll try to match your free Saturday and favorite subject to our needs. Thanks.

**When contacting Jim**, you need to call 890-4944 or e-mail at jorband@vt.edu. If it is business that Jim needs to conduct with you, it is a good idea to bypass Jody because she is going to drop you into his voice mail. Jim responds to his voice mail. Some days are faster than others but please be patient. Jim will get back with you as soon as possible. If you are working off of an urgent deadline and wonder if Jim is in the office call 890-4940 to find out his whereabouts and indicate the urgency.

Jim, 890-4944, jorband@vt.edu

Jody, 890-4940, jopainte@vt.edu